

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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1. Rest Home No. 4-5 of the Central Council of Trade Unions (Vsesoyuznogo Tsentralnogo Soveta Profsoyuzov Dom Otdykha - VTsSPS - 4-5) was located on the northern outskirts of Gelendzhik (M4-34, E38-05). The home was under the administration of the Central Council of Trade Unions through its Central Administration of VTsSPS Rest Homes, located in Rostov-na-Donu. I heard from the home's director that Rostov's VTsSPS Rest Home Office was responsible for the administration of all VTsSPS rest homes in the USSR. I do not know whether or not this is true; however, since the majority of VTsSPS rest homes was located in the Black Sea area and in the Caucasus, I consider it highly probable.
2. The director of the Gelendzhik Rest Home was Yevgeniy Vasilyevich Salnikov, a very active Party member; the deputy for administration (Zavkhoz) was Vasilii Yakovlyevich Lagyutin; the chief accountant was Georgiy Petrovich Ptitsyn. In addition to these leading personnel, the home's administration included: a medical doctor who was in charge of a dispensary (SanPropusknik), three or four nurses, two warehouse managers, a cashier, a bookkeeper, an accountant, a secretary, a garage chief, and a physical exercise instructor. About 70 auxiliary personnel performed the necessary menial work; these included waitresses, cleaning women, kitchen help, watchmen, and laborers who tended the park and grounds.

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3. The capacity of the home was about 450 persons. Open season ran from 15 March to 31 December, during which time the home was always filled to capacity. People came there not only from central USSR but from Murmansk, Arkhangelsk, and even Vladivostok. Guests who had visited other VTsSPS rest homes said that the Gelendzhik home was certainly one of the best.
4. Since the home belonged to the Central Council of Trade Unions, and since all working people in the USSR held obligatory membership in some trade union or other, the home's guests came from all groups of population: there were government officials; high Party members; artists and intellectuals; skilled and unskilled workers; kolkhoz brigadiers, stakhanovites, and section leaders (zvenyevoys). No common kolkhoz workers, however, visited the home.
5. I heard from guests at the home that the following was the normal procedure of applying for authorization to visit a rest home:
 - a. An employee applied through official channels to his local trade union organization stating reasons why and when he wished to visit a rest home. He might give reasons of health, or base his petition on a plea of having worked long and hard at his job without having had a rest home leave. Such an application was usually called a putevka (zayavleniye o putevke), meaning a document entitling an employee to a certain period of leave at a rest home, paid or partially paid for by the trade union. It generally took a long time to have an application approved and a reservation assigned. People would submit their petitions in the wintertime for the coming summer; sometimes a petition would be approved not for the coming but for the second summer.
 - b. Petitions were studied very thoroughly and either disapproved and returned to the petitioner with some suitable endorsement or approved and forwarded to the VTsSPS Rest Home Office in Rostov. The VTsSPS Office in Rostov did not check into the employee's reason for requesting a putevka. The matter was left to the local trade union organization and the employee's supervisor /see below/. The only concern of the VTsSPS Rest Home Office in Rostov was to find a place where employees could be assigned a reservation. The approved putevka together with reservations were eventually returned through the local trade union to the petitioner. Normally the study of the petitions by the trade union organization was done in close cooperation with the administration of whichever enterprise the petitioner worked for. As far as I know, suggestions and opinions of the petitioner's superiors were always taken into consideration, and almost no individual in the USSR could obtain a putevka without the countersignature of his superior. When the petition was first tentatively approved by the local trade union, the same union also had to make a decision as to how much of the expense would be borne by the union and how much by the applicant; in this question, the official deciding factors were the applicant's wage (in other words, his ability to pay), his family status, his age, and his efficiency rating. In practice, what counted most was an applicant's efficiency, especially efficiency in the political field and his activity in the local trade union organizations. Three types of putevka were granted by the trade unions: 100%, 50%, and 25%, which meant that either 100%, 50%, or 25% of the expenses would be shouldered by the trade unions, leaving the rest of the financial burden to the employees themselves. A 100% putevka was given very seldom. Most common was the 50% putevka; and a 25% putevka was unusual. Any one of these putevkas could be

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made for either of the two common vacation periods: 14 or 24 days. I never heard of a putëvka issued for a shorter or longer stay at the home. No travel expenses were ever included in the putëvka. In all cases, even if granted a 100% putëvka, the individual always paid any travel costs. (I do not know how the people managed to pay these expenses; but, as I have said, the home was always filled.) An employee, as I understood it, whose putëvka had been approved was granted sufficient leave (trudovoy otpusk) from his work to cover his travel time to and from the rest home and the length of his vacation at the home.

6. The daily charge (koykoden) at the Gelendzhik Rest Home was about 16 rubles. This rate varied from one rest home to another, depending on the type of accommodations furnished and, of course, on the home's operational expenses. As far as I know, neither the Gelendzhik Rest Home nor any other was self-supporting. Operational costs always exceeded income received from the trade unions. Originally the intention had been to make the VTsSPS Rest Homes self-supporting. For this purpose large agricultural and cattle-raising farms were organized on the kolkhoz pattern within the VTsSPS to facilitate the supply of food products to the homes. One such farm which I visited in 1949 and 1951 was located in the village of Obolonka, Fedorovskiy Rayon, Rostovskaya Oblast; it produced all types of grain and vegetables, and included a large cattle-raising farm, dairy farm, horticultural farm, and orchard. However, all this didn't help much, and as I heard, the trade unions ended up still supporting the VTsSPS Rest Home from their membership fees and other sources of income.
7. Before entering the rest home, all guests had to report to the home's dispensary, where they were given a warm shower and were required to put on clean underwear they had brought along. Then they were given a general medical check-up; height and weight were measured and recorded. No ill people were ever accepted into the home. Single guests were given a bed in rooms for two, four, or six. Families were assigned single rooms with a sufficient number of beds for all members of the family.
8. The home served no a la carte meals; four daily meals were served in the dining-room in two shifts:
 - a. Breakfast: coffee from the Caucasus [sic] or tea; bread, butter, and marmalade; served in two sittings, at 0830 and 0900 hours.
 - b. Dinner: soup or borsch, meat with potatoes, or macaroni, and one vegetable; once or twice a week, fish was substituted for the meat; dessert was generally stewed fruit or a piece of cake; served at 1330 and 1430 hours.
 - c. An afternoon snack consisted of a cup of coffee or tea with some pastry, cake, stewed fruit, buns, and butter; served at 1700 and 1730 hours.
 - d. Supper: one meat or fish course with potatoes and one vegetable; and dessert similar to the one served at dinner; served at 1900 and 2030 hours.
9. Food products used by the rest home were drawn daily from the resort trade warehouse (Kurort-Torg) in Gelendzhik. I do not know how the payments were handled. Bulky food rations such as flour and potatoes were delivered to the home from the Kurort-Torg vegetable warehouse in Novorossiysk.

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10. The daily schedule at the Gelendzhik Rest Home was as follows:
- Morning reveille was sounded with a gong at 0700. Thirty minutes' physical exercise was then held for those who desired it; this was done under the direction of a special physical exercise instructor. Guests who were not interested in physical exercise usually went straight to the beach for a morning swim. Physical exercise completed, guests were allowed to spend 30 minutes at their morning toilet before breakfast.
 - The time from breakfast to dinner was taken up with various sports such as volleyball, basketball, soccer, and swimming, or such games as billiards and chess.
 - The afternoon, (until 1700 hours, was reserved for obligatory rest. Officially, everybody had to be in his bed sleeping or resting at that time. However, this rule was not too strictly observed, and some guests used to spend the time either hiking or swimming.
 - The time from 1730 to 1900 hours was devoted to the mass cultural enlightenment work (KultMass Rabota), which was participation in various national dances, songs, games, or some sport competition.
 - From 2100 to 2245 hours there was either a movie shown in the rest home's movie house or an artistic floor show given by amateur guests or a traveling theatrical group. When there was no movie or show, this time was used for some such activity as was described above.
 - Evening taps ~~was~~ at 2300 hours. At this time everybody had to be in bed and all the lights turned off. Immediately after 2300 hours there was a bed check either by the medical doctor or by the duty nurse to see if all guests were actually in bed or if somebody were missing. This rule was strictly observed, and any person violating it would: for the first violation, receive a written reprimand from the rest home director; for the second violation, have a report made to his trade union; and for the third violation, normally be expelled from the rest home. If the third violation occurred shortly before the guest's leave was to end, he would be given an unsatisfactory character report (Kharakteristika) as to his behavior at the rest home.
11. In addition to the VTsSPS Rest Home #4-5, there were several other rest homes in Gelendzhik:
- VTsSPS #1-2: a sanitarium located very close to Rest Home #4-5. This sanitarium was organized for guests whose health condition had to be restored. I do not know what ailments were treated there, but I am positive that no TB patients or victims of any other contagious diseases were accepted by this sanitarium.
 - VTsSPS Rest Home #3, on ul. Mayachnaya in northwest Gelendzhik. The approximate capacity of this rest home was 200-250 guests.
 - The Post, Telephone, and Telegraph Trade Union Employees' Rest Home (Dom Otdykha Tsentral'nogo Komiteta Profsoyuza Rabotnikov Svyazi), on ul. Mayachnaya close to Rest Home #3. Its capacity was approximately 250 guests.
 - The State Trading Organizations' Trade Union Employee's Rest Home (Dom Otdykha Tsentral'nogo Komiteta Profsoyuza Rabotnikov Gostorgovli), on ul. Sanatoriynaya.

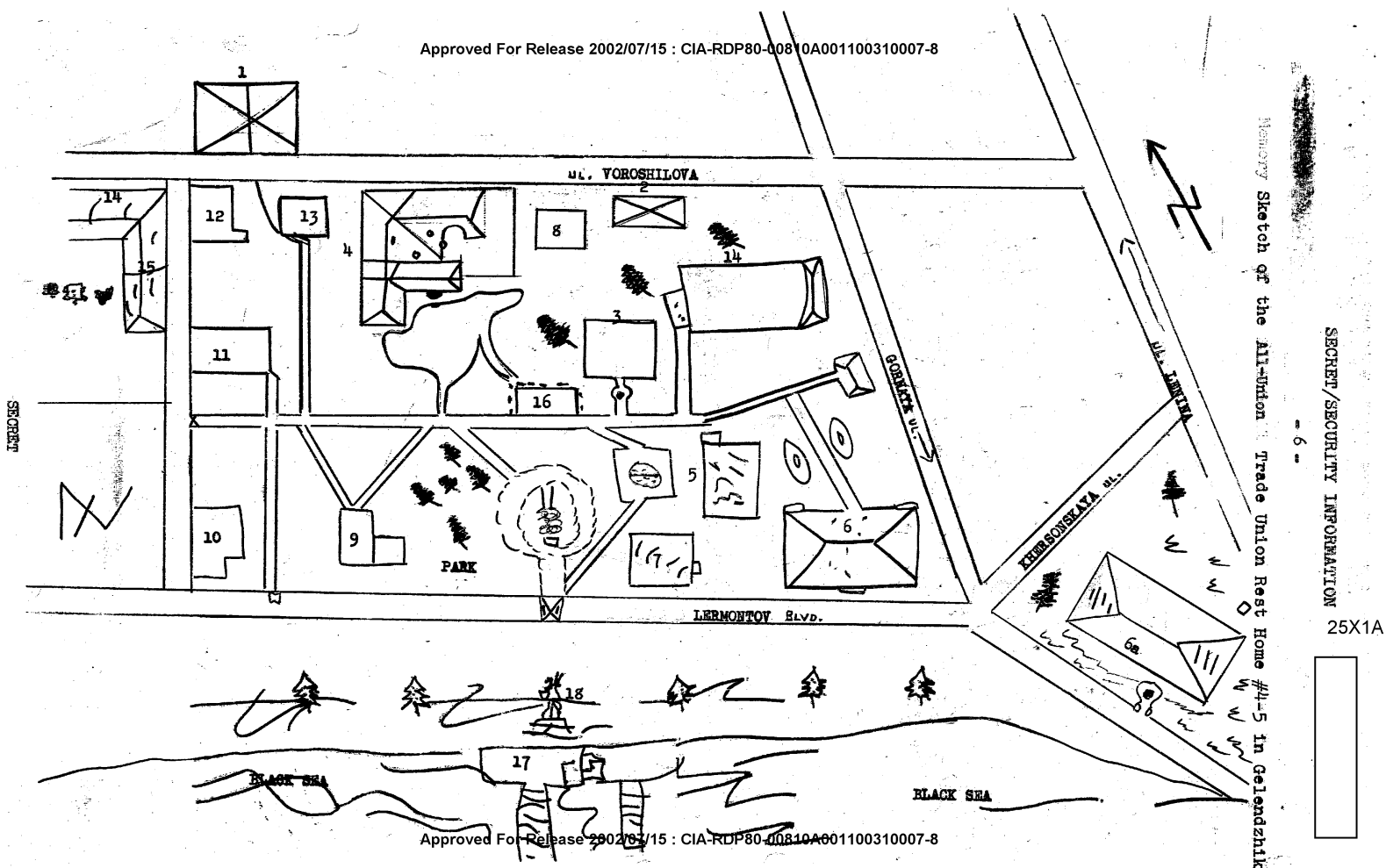
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- e. The MVD Rest Home (Dom Otdykha MVD), located on ul. Marskaya. This rest home had a capacity of 400 to 500 guests.
 - f. Sanitarium of the Moscow State University (Moskovskogo Gosudarstvennogo Universiteta), located on ul. Voroshilova. It had an approximate capacity of 400 to 500 guests.
 - g. Rest Home of the Disabled Workers' Social Security Association (Dom Otdykha Kooperativa Invalidnoy Strakhovoy Kassy-Koopin-StrakhKassy), located on ul. Lunacharskogo. This was a small rest home used for all incapacitated workers and war veterans. Its capacity was 150 to 200 men.
 - h. Rest Home of the Rostov Agricultural Machinery Plant (Dom Otdykha Rostovskogo Sel'skoo-Mashinostroitel'nogo Zavoda--RosSelMash), located on Tolstyy Mys in the southern part of Gelendzhik. Its approximate capacity was 400 to 500 guests.
 - i. Teachers' Rest Home "Solntse" (Uchitel'skiy KurGorodok), located at the northern-most point of Gelendzhik Bay. This was a very large rest home, which practically constituted a small town in itself.
 - j. Children's TB Sanitarium #4, located on the Tonkiy Mys.
12. Practically the entire population of Gelendzhik, in one capacity or another, was either connected with one of these rest homes or worked for one. This was generally characteristic of the whole Gelendzhik area, which, as far as I know, was one of the largest rest home centers in that particular area of the Black Sea coast.
13. The sanitarium of the USSR Council of Ministers was located in Sochi.

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Legend

1. Administration building; a one-story stone house
2. Dispensary (SanPropusnik) and visitors' registry room: a one-story stone building
3. Library: a one-story wooden house, 10 x 25 m.
4. Restaurant and kitchen: a one-story stone building 70 x 70 m.
5. Theater: a one-story wooden building, 20 x 50 m.
6. to 13. Guest houses: one- and two-story stone buildings measuring between 15 x 15 m. and 20 x 50 m.
14. Garage: a one-story stone house where the rest home trucks were kept: one ZIS-5, two GAZ-51, one 1 1/2-ton GAZ-MM, and one GAZ-67
15. Food warehouse
16. Open-air dance floor
17. A boardwalk beach with several diving-boards
18. World War II memorial

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